

## PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form (<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/resources/checklist.pdf>) and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

### ARTICLE DETAILS

<b>TITLE (PROVISIONAL)</b>	Exploring Research on the Coping Strategies of Black Survivors of Homicide Victims: A Scoping Review Protocol
<b>AUTHORS</b>	Edwards, Travonne; Sharpe, Tanya; Bonomo, Antonia; Massaquoi, Notisha

### VERSION 1 – REVIEW

<b>REVIEWER</b>	Roach, Jason University of Huddersfield, Applied Criminology and Policing Centre
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	12-Apr-2021

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	<p>I think that this is a very worthwhile proposed project. I do however, have a few comments which are made in a spirit of helpfulness:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Why are the writers sure that how people deal/come to terms with the loss of a loved-one to homicide is influenced by culture or race or the colour of someone's skin. I feel this needs more explanation.</li><li>2. What do they mean by homicide? In the UK this is murder, manslaughter and infanticide - is this what the writers mean too? This needs clarification as I'm not sure if this is an international systematic review or not. if so, different laws in different countries where different research has been conducted.</li><li>3. Where the victim of homicide is a child will this not be felt differently to an adult victim irrespective of the colour of the victim? This needs explaining.</li><li>4. Black is a colour not a nationality so there are many different cultures involved here. Simply saying 'black' is arguably too simplistic and general.</li></ol> <p>I don't think that my comments are unsurmountable for the writers, but they are very relevant to both the literature chosen for the review and how it is analysed.</p> <p>I hope this helps.</p>
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<b>REVIEWER</b>	McDevitt-Murphy, Meghan University of Memphis Department of Psychology, Psychology
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	26-May-2021

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	Review of BMJ open – 2021-049784 “Exploring Research on the Coping Strategies of Black Survivors of Homicide Victims: A Scoping Review Protocol” Rebecca Zakarian, M.S. (doctoral student) assisted with this review.
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	<p>This manuscript describes a plan for a “scoping review” paper. The authors have submitted this paper as a study protocol manuscript, where the manuscript reports on the methods used in an in-progress study. In terms of overall feedback, I think that the authors should move more quickly to presenting the methods and analysis. In review papers, typically the introduction is quite brief. In this case, it would help for the introduction to include a justification for a scoping review, and to summarize concisely the gaps that remain after the prior systematic reviews. It sounds as though this review paper may be well-poised to make a contribution to the literature with respect to Black survivors of homicide loss, although they should make the case more clearly for how this paper will move the field forward.</p> <p>In laying out the rationale for their study, I think it would also benefit the reader to include a description of what a “scoping” review is, and how it differs from a systematic review. . (It is unclear if the prior reviews were systematic reviews or scoping reviews – both terms are used to refer to the same studies).</p> <p>On page 9, the language used to summarize study 49 suggests causal links between homicide survivorship and negative outcomes; since this could not be studied in an experimental way that would indicate causality, it is recommended that the authors use more specific, clear language to summarize the systematic review findings. Clarification on statistical analyses may be helpful.</p> <p>On page 10, can you clarify how women being “societally more encouraged to express their emotions than men” is related to the development of PGD and, additionally, why that finding is related to /roader argument about providing culturally-informed care for Black homicide survivors?</p> <p>On page 11, line 47, what is meant by “racialized” survivors? Can you clarify/define this term?</p> <p>There is significant reference to the “global” diaspora, but the majority of the literature review is grounded in Western, and even more specifically North American, culture and research. Given that the review will not be able to speak to global diaspora experiences, this term may not be useful. Instead, you may wish to use language that makes clear that your research focuses on Black Western cultures and communities.</p> <p>The research questions are oriented to “Black communities” whereas much of the literature review focuses on Black individuals or families. Will your scoping review focus on the individual, family, or community level? Please clarify.</p> <p>On page 13, line 15, the aims include the language of “globally” improving patient outcomes, but the literature review primarily focuses on Western cultures and communities. Stating that the North American/Western focused literature review will serve as a valuable resource on a “global” level may be inaccurate.</p> <p><b>Method and Analysis</b></p> <p>The authors should provide a theoretical or analytical rationale for the chosen time period of 2000 to 2020 for this review</p>
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	<p>It is unclear why the database Psychinfo was not included in the authors' search as there is a small literature of findings related to homicide survivorship in the psychological literature.</p> <p>One of the research questions is "What is the impact of experiencing the homicide of a loved one for Black Communities?" – this question seems to be written too broadly, as it is unclear what unit of analysis will be used (individuals, communities, etc). it is also unclear if the review will be limited to studies that collected a specific type of data (e.g., self-report PTSD, grief, coping, etc)</p> <p>Another focus seems to be on interventions, specifically culturally-responsive interventions. It is not clear if the literature review will be limited to those that investigated interventions, specifically? Or if this will also be limited to studies that included a certain composition of Black individuals in their sample?</p> <p>The exact inclusion criteria for studies that will be reviewed are unclear.</p> <p>Language errors In addition to the above comments, there are several instances of grammatical and spelling errors throughout the manuscript as well as instances of word choice errors that interfere with clarity. These errors are beyond the scope of what a journal's copy editor would be equipped to correct. The manuscript should be reviewed thoroughly to reduce errors, grammatical confusion, and spelling problems.</p> <p>Some examples: Numerous instances of word choice errors – saying that the "research displayed. . ." instead of "demonstrated" which would be a more conventional word choice.</p> <p>On page 8, last paragraph, the authors wrote, "When a homicide occurs, survivors are therefore faced with the challenge of managing their own grief and that of their family members, increasing the risk of experiencing ongoing trauma symptoms as well as exacerbating and often "complicating" the grieving process." Some clarity is needed here. Specifically, what is meant by "managing" grief? How does this increase the risk of PTSD or complicated grief symptoms?</p> <p>On page 9, line 13, the term should be Major Depressive Disorder (not "Major Depression Disorder" as stated in the manuscript).</p> <p>On page 9, the authors wrote, "the results found that instances of homicide profoundly implicate the lives of surviving" – impact, rather than implicate, may be a more straightforward and clear verb here.</p> <p>Also on page 9, the next sentence beginning, "Within these national contexts..." is grammatically confusing and unclear.</p> <p>grammatical error: p. 10 "Although, psychological interventions designed to address symptoms of complicated grief is understudied" (subject/verb disagreement)</p>
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	<p>On page 12 in the last paragraph, the sentence that starts, “Service provider networks...” is grammatically unclear and confusing.</p> <p>On page 16, line 50, the word “deceased” is used in place of “decades.”</p> <p>p. 16 the authors use the word “agreeance” instead of “agreement”</p>
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### VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

#### Summary of changes made to the manuscript

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to address the feedback on our manuscript, entitled “Exploring Research on the Coping Strategies of Black Survivors of Homicide Victims: A Scoping Review Protocol” and the invitation to make revisions and resubmit to BMJ. We have organized our responses as per the different sections of the manuscript.

**Introduction and Rationale:** As suggested by the reviewers, we have shortened the introduction and provided a summary of gaps in research that remain despite prior systematic reviews and offered a justification for a scoping review allowing us to present our methods and analysis earlier in the manuscript.

**Language & Terminology:** Grammatical and word choice errors have been addressed throughout the manuscript. The use of terms such as homicide, global, and Black have been defined or edited to provide clarity as per the reviewer's request.

**Method & Analysis:** As per the suggestions made by the reviewers, we have provided a rationale for the chosen time period of 2000 to 2020 for this review.

**Results:** At the reviewer's request, language has been modified to summarize the systematic review findings.

We thank the reviewers for noting this scoping review protocol as a “worthwhile proposed project”. Please find below the comments and questions raised by the reviewers, our responses to those questions and the modified text that showcase these changes in a tabular form. We think that the reviewer's suggestions have further strengthened the manuscript and we appreciate the opportunity to make these revisions.

	Reviewer Comments	Response to the reviewers	Modified Text	Location in manuscript
	GENERAL			
1.	{Reviewer #1} - Why are the writers sure that how people deal/come to terms with the loss of a loved-one to homicide is influenced by culture or race or the colour of someone's skin. I feel this needs more explanation.	Thank you for the feedback. An explanation of the way race based structural inequality influences the ability of Black survivors of homicide victims to cope with the murder of a loved one has been provided.	Sharpe(32) found that Black survivors of homicide victims coping strategies and support systems are influenced by race-based social and structural inequities. Black survivors of homicide victims who experience the traumatic murder of a loved one does not simply call for an appraisal of the "threat" to determine what types of coping strategies are available for use to ensure one's wellbeing. Rather, Black people racially appraise the impact of experiencing homicide through structurally racist systems that place value on the experience, and brings about feelings of stigma, shame, blame, and lack of justice.	p.2
2.	{Reviewer #1} - What do they mean by homicide? In the UK this is murder, manslaughter and infanticide - is this what the writers mean too? This needs clarification as I'm not sure if this is an international systematic review or not. if so, different laws in different countries where different research has been conducted.	Thank you for the thoughtful comment. A definition of homicide has been provided for clarity. This definition is widely utilized in homicide research. There may be variations for the term homicide that reflect jurisdictional and/or legal differences. As a result, we included the following search terms that are potentially inclusive of those variations (e.g., murder, crime, violence).	For the purpose of this scoping review protocol, the term "homicide" will be defined as the killing of one person by another. Homicide is a more expansive and common term that refers to non-criminal and criminal acts of murder.	p.1

		In addition, a definition of homicide has been added to the text.		
3.	{Reviewer #1} - Where the victim of homicide is a child will this not be felt differently to an adult victim irrespective of the colour of the victim? This needs explaining.	Thank you for your comment. The purpose of this scoping review protocol is to “provide an amalgamation of the current literature regarding the coping strategies of Black survivors of homicide victims” . Due to the disproportionate experience with homicide for Black people, the population of study is Black survivors of homicide victims. Moreover, a diverse array of homicide victims and survivors will be included in these empirical studies (e.g. surviving parents, children, partners). Lastly, we have noted on pgs. 5-6 that there are several factors that influence the coping process for survivors of homicide victims including relationship to the deceased, race based structural inequality, access and utilization of formal and informal support, etc.	The psychological, social, and physical effects of traumatic loss are articulated through the practice of grief.(32) How individuals grieve depends on many factors including; the circumstances of the homicide, access and utilization of medical and mental health services, use and availability of informal support systems (e.g., family members and friends), the involvement of the criminal justice system, the nature of the relationship with the deceased, religious and/or cultural beliefs.(25,33–40) Moreover, Sharpe(32) found that Black survivors of homicide victims coping strategies and support systems are influenced by race-based social and structural inequities.	p.2
4.	{Reviewer #1} - Black is a colour not a nationality so there are many different cultures involved here. Simply saying 'black' is arguably too simplistic and general.	Thank you for your comment. We recognize that the term Black is not homogenous and includes a diverse a ray of ethnicities and cultural groups. The scoping review protocol search terms reflect this. In addition, the term Black is a commonly used and accepted term across multiple disciplines including those examining homicide. The term Black	This scoping review will also use an array of search terms such as Black, African-American, African, Caribbean, and Afro (e.g., Caribbean, Brazilian, etc.) to capture the nuances of the diversity of Blackness within the various vocabulary indexes across the included	p.5-6

		<p>is a social, political and racialization process with structural and mental health consequences. Quantitative, qualitative, social work and trauma scholars utilize this definition of the term Black. Please see research by: Omi, M. and Winant, H. Race Formation in the United States. Routledge Press; 2014.; Eduardo Bonilla-Silva. 1999. "The Essential Social Fact of Race." American Sociological Review 64(6): 899-906; and, McGuffey, C. Shawn. 2013. "Rape and Racial Appraisals: Culture, Intersectionality and Black Women's Accounts of Sexual Assault." Du Bois Review 10(1): 109-130.</p>		
5.	<p>{Reviewer #2} - This manuscript describes a plan for a "scoping review" paper. The authors have submitted this paper as a study protocol manuscript, where the manuscript reports on the methods used in an in-progress study. In terms of overall feedback, I think that the authors should move more quickly to presenting the methods and analysis. In review papers, typically the introduction is quite brief. In this case, it would help for the introduction to include a justification for a scoping review, and to summarize concisely the gaps that remain after the prior systematic reviews. It sounds as though this review paper may be well-poised to make a</p>	<p>We agree with reviewer 2 comments and have reduced the length of the literature review to present the methods and analysis more quickly. To justify why we chose to utilize a scoping review we have defined what is a scoping review, outlines its strengths and highlighted the gaps this method can support us in filling.</p>	N/A	N/A

	contribution to the literature with respect to Black survivors of homicide loss, although they should make the case more clearly for how this paper will move the field forward.			
6.	{Reviewer #2} - In laying out the rationale for their study, I think it would also benefit the reader to include a description of what a “scoping” review is, and how it differs from a systematic review. (It is unclear if the prior reviews were systematic reviews or scoping reviews – both terms are used to refer to the same studies).	We agree with reviewer 2 comments and have defined the differences between a scoping review and systematic review. We have made note that all prior studies in the literature review are systematic reviews.	This scoping review aims to identify and synthesize the current literature on coping with the homicide of a loved one for Black survivors of homicide victims. A scoping review is a useful method to understand the scope of the literature on a particular area and to provide clarity regarding what research currently exists, identify gaps, and to clarify concepts.(36) Moreover, scoping reviews can support in understanding how research has been conducted in each discipline or on a topic.(36) Scoping reviews are helpful for investigations when developing research remains ambiguous and more precise questions can be posed. Whereas systematic reviews are generally understood as a research method of synthesis that is utilized by investigators who seek to identify and extract evidence relevant to a particular topic, and to evaluate the quality of the findings to better inform policy, practice, and future research.(36,37) A systematic approach employs explicit methods to reduce bias, which supports the production of reliable results that can appropriately inform	p.4-5



			<p>decision making processes.(36)</p> <p>Due to limited research on Black experiences of coping with homicide, a scoping review is an effective methodological approach in generating knowledge in a manner that systematically maps out study findings as they relate to the impact of experiencing the homicide of a loved one, strategies used to cope with the experience, and interventions used to support Black survivors of homicide victims. As such, the investigators of this study decided to conduct a scoping review to map the existing research pertaining to the coping strategies of Black survivors of homicide victims.</p>	
7.	{Reviewer #2}- On page 11, line 47, what is meant by “racialized” survivors? Can you clarify/define this term?	Thank you for the question. The term racialized has been removed from the document and replaced with the term Black for clarity.	N/A	N/A
8.	{Reviewer #2}- There is significant reference to the “global” diaspora, but the majority of the literature review is grounded in Western, and even more specifically North American, culture and research. Given that the review will not be able to speak to global diaspora experiences, this term may not be useful. Instead, you may wish to use language that makes clear that your research focuses on Black Western cultures and communities.	Thank you for your comment, the term “global diaspora” has been replaced with “North America”.	Black people suffer disproportionately from direct and indirect exposure to homicide.(1–4) In the United States, Black people comprise approximately 13% of the population, and yet account for 50% of all homicide victims annually.(6) In Canada, Black people represent 3.5% of the population, yet encompass 44% of homicide victims.(7,8) Despite the disproportionate prevalence of homicide	p.1

			for Black communities in North America, there is limited research exploring their coping strategies following with the loss of a loved one.(9,10)	
9.	{Reviewer #2}- The research questions are oriented to “Black communities” whereas much of the literature review focuses on Black individuals or families. Will your scoping review focus on the individual, family, or community level? Please clarify.	Thank you for your comment. The phrase Black individuals, families and communities has been added to the research questions and places where appropriate throughout the manuscript to indicate the inclusion of research that examines the coping strategies of Black individuals, families and/or communities that are surviving the homicide of a loved one.	This study will be guided by the following three research questions: 1) What is the impact of experiencing the homicide of a loved one for Black individuals, families and communities?; 2) How do Black individuals, families and communities cope with experiencing the homicide of a loved one; and 3) What strategies and/or interventions have been designed to support Black individuals, families, and communities coping with homicide?	p.4
10.	{Reviewer #2}-On page 13, line 15, the aims include the language of “globally” improving patient outcomes, but the literature review primarily focuses on Western cultures and communities. Stating that the North American/Western focused literature review will serve as a valuable resource on a “global” level may be inaccurate.	Thank you for your comment. Apart from an introduction to the global phenomenon of Black homicide, the term “global diaspora” has been replaced with “North America”. Additionally, the reference to a global contribution has also been changed to “Black survivors of homicide victims” to be more accurate.	This methodological approach will provide a succinct systematic synthesis of the literature, providing a valuable resource to health practitioners, social workers, researchers, advocates, and Black survivors of homicide victims.	p.4
<b>METHODS &amp; ANALYSIS</b>				
11.	{Reviewer #2}- On page 9, the language used to summarize study 49 between homicide survivorship and negative outcomes; since this could not be studied in an	We agree with reviewer 2 comments and have used more clear language to summarize the findings of Connolly and Gordon’s systematic review.	Connolly and Gordon(10) conducted a systematic review which explored the effects of homicide on surviving family members. Results indicated that	p.2

	<p>experimental way that would indicate causality, it is recommended that the authors use more specific, clear language to summarize the systematic review findings.</p> <p>Clarification suggests causal links on statistical analyses may be helpful</p>		<p>exposure to the homicide of a loved one profoundly impacted the lives of surviving victims psychologically, academically, socially, occupationally, as well as disrupted routine family dynamics.(10)</p> <p>Additionally, findings indicated that the grieving process was also disrupted and postponed when interacting with the criminal justice system due to a lack of transparency of institutional processes, lack of sympathy and lengthy investigations.(10)</p> <p>Lastly, survivors found that fostering supportive networks and spirituality were meaningful coping strategies for managing their grief and building resiliency.</p>	
12	<p>{Reviewer #2}-On page 10, can you clarify how women being “societally more encouraged to express their emotions than men” is related to the development of PGD and, additionally, why that finding is related to /roader argument about providing culturally-informed care for Black homicide survivors?</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We agree that this finding is not related to the scoping review protocol. As a result, we have removed this article from the manuscript.</p>	N/A	N/A
13	<p>{Reviewer #2}-The authors should provide a theoretical or analytical rationale for the chosen time period of 2000 to 2020 for this review</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We have included an analytical rationale for why we have chosen to focus on the last two decades for the purpose scoping review.</p>	<p>Despite the historical and disproportionate impact of homicide on Black communities, the past 2 decades have exposed the pervasive nature of homicide requiring an examination of ways to support Black individuals, families, and</p>	p.7

			communities cope with such tragedy. Therefore, this scoping review will only include scholarly articles published throughout the years 2000 to 2020 to focus on contemporary research designed to understand the coping strategies of Black survivors of homicide victims.	
14.	{Reviewer #2}-It is unclear why the database Psychinfo was not included in the authors' search as there is a small literature of findings related to homicide survivorship in the psychological literature	Thank you for your feedback. We agree with your comment. Psychinfo was included in the search string. To clarify our search strategy, we have added the search strategy details.	<p>Search Strategy Ovid (Psychinfo)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.(Black* or "African American*" or Afro* or "African Cultural Group*" or African*).tw.</li> <li>2. Blacks/</li> <li>3. african cultural groups/</li> <li>4. or/1-3</li> <li>5. ((Homic* or Murder* or Crime* or Violen*) adj2 (Victim* or Survivor*)).tw.</li> <li>6. crime victims/</li> <li>7. victimization/</li> <li>8. exp homicide/</li> <li>9. survivors/</li> <li>10. or/5-9</li> <li>11. (Copi* or "Social Support*" or Resilien* or Bereave* or Mourn* or Grief* or "Mental Health" or Trauma* or "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder" or PTSD).tw.</li> <li>12. coping behavior/</li> <li>13. exp posttraumatic stress disorder/</li> </ol>	p.7

			<p>14. exp bereavement</p> <p>15. trauma/ or emotional trauma/ or moral injury/ or post-traumatic stress/ or posttraumatic growth/ or traumatic loss/</p> <p>16. social support/</p> <p>17. "Resilience (Psychological)"/</p> <p>18. mental health/</p> <p>19. or/11-18</p> <p>20. 4 and 10 and 19</p>	
15.	{Reviewer #2}-One of the research questions is “What is the impact of experiencing the homicide of a loved one for Black Communities?” – this question seems to be written too broadly, as it is unclear what unit of analysis will be used (individuals, communities, etc). it is also unclear if the review will be limited to studies that collected a specific type of data (e.g., self-report PTSD, grief, coping, etc)	Thank you for your feedback. The phrase Black individuals, families and communities has been added to the research questions and places where appropriate throughout the manuscript to indicate the inclusion of research that examines the coping strategies of Black individuals, families and/or communities that are surviving the homicide of a loved one. In addition, we have added a sentence to help clarify that all empirical articles focused on examining the coping strategies of Black individuals, families and/or communities will be included in the scoping review. All empirical methods for examining the coping strategies of Black individuals, families and/or communities will be included in the scoping review (e.g., self-report, focus group interviews, administered coping survey).	<p>This study will be guided by the following three research questions: 1) What is the impact of experiencing the homicide of a loved one for Black individuals, families and communities?; 2) How do Black individuals, families and communities cope with experiencing the homicide of a loved one; and 3) What strategies and/or interventions have been designed to support Black individuals, families, and communities coping with homicide?</p> <p>This scoping review will include empirical studies that utilize a diverse a ray of methods quantitative (e.g., administered, and self-report survey) and qualitative (e.g., individual and focus group interviews) to examine the coping strategies of Black individuals, families,</p>	p.4 and p.7-8

			and/or communities. There are no geographical or methodological limitations within this review.	
16	{Reviewer #2}- Another focus seems to be on interventions, specifically culturally-responsive interventions. It is not clear if the literature review will be limited to those that investigated interventions, specifically? Or if this will also be limited to studies that included a certain composition of Black individuals in their sample.	Thank you for your comment. To address this feedback, we have added a statement to clarify the inclusion criteria for strategies and interventions appropriate for this scoping review.	Strategies and interventions must have a majority sample of Black participants to be included in this scoping review.	p.8
17	{Reviewer #2}-The exact inclusion criteria for studies that will be reviewed are unclear.	A detailed description of the inclusion and exclusion criteria for this study has been added to the manuscript.	This scoping review will include empirical studies that utilize a diverse array of methods quantitative (e.g., administered, and self-report survey) and qualitative (e.g., individual and focus group interviews) to examine the coping strategies of Black individuals, families, and/or communities. There are no geographical or methodological limitations within this review. Manuscripts must meet the following inclusion criteria: (1) include the word Black or African (e.g., African-American and Afro Caribbean) in the title and abstract; (2) include the word homicide or one of the following terms used synonymously with this construct in the title or abstract (e.g., murder, death, killing, fatality); (3) include the word coping	p.7-8

			<p>or one of the following synonymous terms in the title and abstract (e.g., manage, survive, healing, resilience); and (4) have an explicit focus on Black survivors of homicide and how they cope with this form of tragic death. Strategies and interventions must have a majority sample of Black participants to be included in this scoping review. This study will exclude: book reviews, dissertations, full books, studies where Black survivors of homicide victims are not included in study sample, conceptual articles, non-English articles, and grey literature (newspapers, governmental documents, and non-peer reviewed articles).</p>	
	LANGUAGE ERRORS			
18.	<p>{Reviewer #2}-In addition to the above comments, there are several instances of grammatical and spelling errors throughout the manuscript as well as instances of word choice errors that interfere with clarity. These errors are beyond the scope of what a journal's copy editor would be equipped to correct. The manuscript should be reviewed thoroughly to reduce errors, grammatical confusion, and spelling problems.</p> <p>***Some examples: Numerous instances of word choice errors – saying that the “research displayed. ...” instead of</p>	<p>We appreciate your thoughtful critique. We have carefully revised the manuscript to assure we have reduced the grammatical errors, confusions and spelling problems.</p>	N/A	N/A

	“demonstrated” which would be a more conventional word choice.			
19.	{Reviewer #2}-On page 8, last paragraph, the authors wrote, “When a homicide occurs, survivors are therefore faced with the challenge of managing their own grief and that of their family members, increasing the risk of experiencing ongoing trauma symptoms as well as exacerbating and often “complicating” the grieving process.” Some clarity is needed here. Specifically, what is meant by “managing” grief? How does this increase the risk of PTSD or complicated grief symptoms?	Thank you for your comment. Throughout our process of editing and shortening the literature review this section has been removed.	N/A	N/A
20.	{Reviewer #2}-On page 9, line 13, the term should be Major Depressive Disorder (not “Major Depression Disorder” as stated in the manuscript).	Thank you for your comment. Throughout our process of editing and shortening the literature review this section has been removed.	N/A	N/A
21.	{Reviewer #2}-On page 9, the authors wrote, “the results found that instances of homicide profoundly implicate the lives of surviving” – impact, rather than implicate, may be a more straightforward and clear verb here.	Thank you for your comment. Clearer and more straightforward language has been added to describe Connolly and Gordon study.	Connolly and Gordon(10) conducted a systematic review which explored the effects of homicide on surviving family members. Results indicated that exposure to the homicide of a loved one profoundly impacted the lives of surviving victims psychologically, academically, socially, occupationally, as well as disrupted routine family dynamics.(10) Additionally, findings indicated that the grieving process was	p.2



			also disrupted and postponed when interacting with the criminal justice system due to a lack of transparency of institutional processes, lack of sympathy and lengthy investigations.(10) Lastly, survivors found that fostering supportive networks and spirituality were meaningful coping strategies for managing their grief and building resiliency.	
22	{Reviewer #2}-Also on page 9, the next sentence beginning, "Within these national contexts..." is grammatically confusing and unclear.	Thank you for your comment. Throughout our process of editing and shortening the literature review this section has been removed.	N/A	N/A
23	{Reviewer #2}-grammatical error: p. 10 "Although, psychological interventions designed to address symptoms of complicated grief is understudied" (subject/verb disagreement).	Thank you for your comment. Throughout our process of editing and shortening the literature review this section has been removed.	N/A	N/A
24	{Reviewer #2}-On page 12 in the last paragraph, the sentence that starts, "Service provider networks..." is grammatically unclear and confusing.	Thank you for your comment. The mentioned sentence has been edited and clarified.	The scarcity of research on Black survivors of homicide victims, leaves social workers, medical professionals, and practitioners with minimal data to develop culturally responsive evidence-based interventions that support survivors as they grieve the murder of their loved one(s).(9) In order to address these gaps in research this scoping review will aim to systematically organize the literature pertaining to the coping strategies of Black	p.3-4

			survivors of homicide victims	
25	{Reviewer #2}-On page 16, line 50, the word “deceased” is used in place of “decades.”	Thank you for your feedback. The term “deceased” has been edited to “decades”.	Despite the historical and disproportionate impact of homicide on Black communities, the past 2 decades have exposed the pervasive nature of homicide requiring an examination of ways to support Black individuals, families, and communities cope with such tragedy.	p.7
26	{Reviewer #2}-p. 16 the authors use the word “agreeance” instead of “agreement	Thank you for your comment. Throughout our process of editing and shortening the literature review this section has been removed.	In order to establish and assess the quality and agreement rates of our screening process, we will use the fist 100 articles using the inclusion and exclusion criteria identified. For this scoping review protocol, the Kappa score will be utilized to measure the inter-agreement rate. This project will achieve a 90% inter-agreement prior to independently screening. If this inter-agreement rate is not achieved from the first 100 articles, we will reconvene to clarify the purpose and criteria of the present study. This process will then be repeated with another 100 articles to achieve a 90% inter-agreement score.	p.8-9